

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03

SP-02 OES-05 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING - FEBRUARY 19

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES STATEMENTS BEFORE THE AD HOC
COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING ON FEBRUARY 19.

2. ICAO SECRETARY GENERAL KOTAITE EMPHASIZED THE TECHNICAL ROLE OF HIS AGENCY AND THE FACT THAT IT PROVIDED EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WITH REGARD TO THE UN SYSTEM, HE SAID THAT IT WAS NATURAL THAT THE SYSTEM WAS COMPLEX, SINCE THE VARIOUS BODIES WERE ESTABLISHED TO MEET A MYRIAD OF DIFFERENT NEEDS. HE SAID THAT IN THE LONG RUN, COHERENCE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY THE POLITICAL WILL OF STATES ACTING CONSISTENTLY TO AN AGREED PURPOSE THROUGH THE VARIOUS AUTONOMOUS ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM. IN ADDITION TO ARGUING THAT THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL AGENCIES BE MAINTAINED, KOTAITE SUGGESTED THAT GIVEN THEIR PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS, IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT THEM TO ADOPT COMMON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY AS FAR AS BUDGETING IS CONCERNED.

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3. WIPO DIRECTOR GENERAL BOSCH REVIEWED THE GENERAL OPERA-

TIONS OF HIS ORGANIZATION, EMPHASIZING ITS IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND THUS IN THE CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. WITH REGARD TO RESTRUCTURING, BOSCH SUGGESTED TWO "PRACTICAL, PRAGMATIC STEPS": STRENGTHENING OF ECOSOC'S ROLE AS COORDINATOR, AND INCREASED CONSULTATION AMONG SECRETARIATS IN THE PREPARATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS.

4. MEXICO (DE-COSSIO) SAID THAT IF ALL NATIONS WERE PREPARED TO COMPLY WITH THE VARIOUS UN POLICY DECISIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, PERHAPS NO RESTRUCTURING WOULD BE NEEDED. IN GENERAL, HE SAID, IT WAS THE GAP BETWEEN POLICY DECISION AND IMPLEMENTATION WHICH HAD PRODUCED THE PLETHORA OF UN INSTITUTIONS. DE-COSSIO SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE BEGIN ITS WORK WITH A SECTORAL ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN SUCH AREAS AS TRADE (FIRST PRIORITY), DEVELOPMENT FINANCING, MONETARY QUESTIONS, INDUSTRIALIZATION, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD. IT COULD THEN PROPOSE THE RESTRUCTURING OF SUCH BODIES AS UNCTAD, GATT, IBRD, IMF, UNESCO, AND FAO. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE COMMITTEE COULD ALSO ANALYSE CHANGES REQUIRED IN THE VARIOUS UN ORGANS AS WELL AS IN THE SECRETARIAT. ONLY THEN SHOULD THE COMMITTEE CONSIDER SUCH MATTERS AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. DE-COSSIO CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF A WORKING GROUP TO UNDERTAKE THIS SECTORAL ANALYSIS.

5. UK (MARSHALL) SAID THAT THE STARTING POINT OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK SHOULD NOT BE ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY IN ITSELF AS MUCH AS THE COLLECTIVE PURPOSE WHICH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UN SYSTEM WERE DESIGNED TO SERVE. HE COMMENDED THE EXPERTS FOR THEIR REPORT BUT SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE NEEDED TO HAVE A GREAT DEAL MORE INFORMATION BEFORE IT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE SORT OF DETAILED PROPOSALS WHICH WAS REQUIRED OF IT. MARSHALL AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD FIRST IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS AND SUGGESTED THAT ECOSOC AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES WAS A VALID STARTING POINT. HE SAID THAT THE COUNCIL WAS DESIGNED TO SERVE BOTH AN ADVISORY AND

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EXECUTIVE FUNCTION BUT SUFFERED FROM AN "INFERIORITY COMPLEX" IN ATTEMPTING TO DO SO -- "IT SEEMS TO CONSIDER ITSELF NEITHER COMPETENT ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH TECHNICAL QUESTIONS...NOR COMPETENT ENOUGH TO TAKE MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS." HE CALLED FOR THE COUNCIL TO DEFINE ITS ROLE MORE CLEARLY AND TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOME AREAS NOW DELEGATED TO SUBORDINATE BODIES WHICH, IN ANY CASE, SHOULD BE PRUNED.

6. JAPAN (KANAZAWA) DESCRIBED A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE AS RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM AND SAID

THAT THIS REQUIRED INTER ALIA BETTER COORDINATION. HE CALLED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE UN SYSTEM BUT WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE STRENGTHENING OF ECOSOC. IN THIS CONNECTION, KANAZAWA INDICATED HIS GENERAL SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE EXPERTS' REPORT. HE ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO A STRENGTHENED ROLE FOR CPC AND CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION PROCEDURE. WITH REGARD TO THE SECRETARIAT, HE SAID THAT THE GOAL SHOULD BE A SIMPLIFIED, ECONOMIC AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION. IN GENERAL, KANAZAWA CALLED ON THE COMMITTEE TO PROCEED IN A CAUTIOUS, PRACTICAL, AND PRAGMATIC MANNER.

7. GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC EMPHASIZED THE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS BE GUIDED BY FULL CONFORMITY WITH THE UN CHARTER, RATIONALIZATION AND INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS OF INSTITUTIONS WITH A STRONG CENTRAL ROLE FOR ECOSOC, UNIVERSALITY AND CONSENSUS.
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